

The Presbytery of Westminster
Special Meeting via Zoom
April 13, 2023

The Presbytery of Westminster met VIA ZOOM on Thursday, April 13, 2023.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Rev. Laurie McKay constituted the Court and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00pm.

The Moderator welcomed the following guests:

1. Rev. Dr. Clyde Ervine, Interim Moderator, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Niagara on the Lake
2. Jeannette Zapp and Laurie Trulson, on behalf of Coquitlam Presbyterian Church

DOCKET

It was moved by Martin Baxter, seconded by Pat Dutcher-Walls that the consent agenda below be adopted.

CARRIED

Consent Agenda:

that the Docket be as indicated,
that the attendance be recorded as those listed on the "Active Hosts Report" for the presbytery ZOOM call,
that regrets and requests for permission to withdraw be noted as sent to the clerk of presbytery,
that reports with recommendations be received and their recommendations considered,
that Larry Eastwood, presbytery treasurer, be permitted to speak to financial issues,
that Ian Rokeby, convenor of P&F, sit in correspondence

Any member may ask for an issue on the consent agenda to be withdrawn from this list before the agenda is adopted.

Constituent Roll: Martin Baxter, Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls, Mary Fontaine, Dr. Brian Fraser, Sumarme Goble, Ta-Li Hsieh, Graeme Illman, Thomas Kim, Laurie McKay, Rebecca Simpson, Bernard Skelding, Miklos Szigeti, Willem van de Wall, Dr. Dale Woods, Anne Bassani, Nancy Caunce, John Con, Isabel Evans, Bev Feick, Kelly Patrick, Nicole Pringle, Claudine Rebosura, Kit Schindell, Bev Shepansky, Susan Stacey, Emily Wilson, Pamela Wong, Jeannette Zapp.

Appendix: Bob Garvin, Lip Boon Lee, Diane Tait-Katerberg, Allen Aicken

Students: Afonso Issa

Non-voting guests:

REGRETS: Lydia Bae, Jason Chang, Cal MacLeod, John Con, Mike Zaine, Ken Sewell, Kate Jordan, Ross Lockhart, Paddy Eastwood, Lorraine Johnson, Richard Watson, Woldy Sosnowsky, Cathy Sosnowsky, Gabriel Snyman, Gordon Shields, Melanie Adams,

COMMITTEE REPORTS



Martin Baxter (clerk)

The Presbytery of Westminster
Special Meeting via Zoom
April 13, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

*The report was presented by Martin Baxter, Administrative Committee Convener.
All motions, unless otherwise noted, moved by Martin Baxter, seconded by Pat Dutcher-Walls.*

Call to Rev. Bernie Skelding

The Presbytery of Niagara met in regular session on Wednesday, March 29th two 2023, via Zoom. Amongst other business, the Call from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Niagara on the Lake, to the Rev. Bernie Skelding and the Guarantee of Stipend Document was considered, and subsequently sustained as a True Gospel Call.

An extract of the minutes of the above mentioned meeting and an electronic version of the call document were emailed to the presbytery clerk.

As such, the Administrative Committee are bringing forth the following recommendations regarding the call from St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Niagara on the Lake, to The Reverend Bernie Skelding.

Recommendation # 1 That the call from St Andrew's Presbyterian Church to The Rev. Bernie Skelding be considered.

CARRIED

At this time Rev. Dr. Clyde Ervine, interim moderator, offer a brief narration of the steps taken to date, regarding this call.

Recommendation #2 That representatives of Coquitlam Presbyterian Church be invited to speak to the call. (to be followed by others from the presbytery)

CARRIED

Jeannette Zapp and Laurie Trulson spoke to the call, on behalf of Coquitlam Presbyterian Church.

Afonso Issa thanked Pastor Bernie for his support, encouragement and his mentorship.

Dale Woods wished Rev. Skelding well and that his presence, would be missed in the presbytery.

Pat Dutcher-Walls made mention that Rev. Skelding was once a student of hers and is pleased he is returning to his home to care for his family. His integrity is what impresses her most in regard to Rev. Skelding.

Isabel Evans spoke to his friendliness and how authentic he is, she wished him the best.



Martin Baxter (clerk)

The Presbytery of Westminster
Special Meeting via Zoom
April 13, 2023

The following are the terms of the call to Rev. Bernie Skelding

We, the professing members of **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake**, being well satisfied with your faithfulness to the Gospel and your qualifications for the ministry of Word and Sacraments and confident that the Holy Spirit has led us to you, earnestly and solemnly call you the **Rev. Bernard Skelding** to become the minister of this congregation. In calling you we promise you all due respect, encouragement, and allegiance in the Lord as, together, we seek to use our gifts in the church and in the world to the glory of God. In order that you, **Bernard Skelding** may be free to devote yourself to ministry of Word and Sacraments among us, we the congregation of St. Andrew's, hereby guarantee to the Presbytery of Niagara, of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that out of our estimated annual revenue of \$278,000, we promise and obligate ourselves to provide you, as a first charge thereon, the following annually:

Annual Stipend [inclusive of travel allowance]	\$60,000
Annual Housing Allowance [including all utilities]	\$30,000

We agree to make payments of the above amounts on the first day of each month [if the minister and the session agree on an alternative payment schedule, amend this statement accordingly,] and agree to review the stipend and allowances annually in view of any changes in the cost of living or the needs of our minister.

We agree further:

1. To provide two weeks for continuing education annually and at least the minimum allowance as set by the General Assembly.
2. That the benefits of number 1 above shall be cumulative up to five years.
3. To provide five weeks holiday annually.
4. To pay supply during the periods of continuing education and holidays.
5. In case of disability or extended illness, to continue to provide stipend, accommodation and allowances for a period not less than that set by the General Assembly, and to pay the cost of pulpit supply.
6. To pay for Medical and Dental Insurance as provided through the Pensions and Benefits Board of the General Assembly and to make contributions to the Pension Plan in compliance with the terms of the plan.
7. To pay necessary moving expenses.



Martin Baxter (clerk)

The Presbytery of Westminster
Special Meeting via Zoom
April 13, 2023

8. To provide \$400 for an annual book allowance and/or digital subscriptions

Recommendation # 3 That the terms of the call be approved and the call be sustained as a true gospel call, and that it be placed in the hands of Rev. Bernie Skelding (virtually) and that Rev. Skelding be given seven days to accept or decline the call.

CARRIED

Rev. Skelding, having received the call, was given the opportunity to respond to the call, which he did, accepting it.

Rev. Skelding offered some comments about Coquitlam, the presbytery and his sense of being torn between two loves.

Recommendation # 4 That upon the acceptance of the Call by the Rev. Skelding, the clerk of presbytery, having consulted with Rev. Skelding, notify the clerk of presbytery for Niagara the effective date of his translation to their presbytery.

CARRIED

Dealing with NWC / TC Grant Applications

At our regular meeting of Presbytery on March 7 2023 we heard a presentation from POIEO for a New Witnessing Communities Grant.

Before our Spring deadline, April 1 2023, we received **five** other applications.

How are we planning to deal with these remaining applications?

SLC met on Wednesday April 12th 2023 and, in consultation with the moderator, we are bringing forth the following recommendation.

Dealing with each application completely independently of any other applications leaves the review committees and presbytery in the dark as to what we may or may not be able to commit to for the current year. So we feel it would be better to process each application (have them present to presbytery and then have a review committee discuss feedback from presbytery and recommend to presbytery how to handle the application), and then at our regular meeting of presbytery on June 20 2023, deal with all the recommendations from the review teams together.

To facilitate that we are circulating a summary of the five remaining grant applications with this report, and we are proposing the following schedule.



Martin Baxter (clerk)

The Presbytery of Westminster
Special Meeting via Zoom
April 13, 2023

<u>Grant Application Name</u>	<u>Presentation to Presbytery</u>
Church on the Road	April 13 2023
Calvin PC/Thomas Kim (TC)	May 2 nd 2023
Brentwood PC/Brian Fraser (TC)	May 2 nd 2023
Trinity PC/Andrea Perrett (NWC)	Monday May 15 th 2023
Brentwood PC/two members (TC) *	Monday May 15 th 2023

**funding to establish recorded music/sermons/liturgy for congregations who are without a minister.*

Recommendation 5 That Presbytery approves the above process and schedule for dealing with the remaining NWC & TC grant applications.

CARRIED

Notice of Upcoming Presbytery Meetings

April 22, 2023	Follow up meeting from Feb 11 th 2023 9am-3pm @ St Andrew's & St Stephen's, North Vancouver
May 2, 2023	In-person Presbytery meeting @ Calvin Presbyterian Church Dinner 6pm Constitution 7pm
May 15, 2023	ZOOM Presbytery meeting Constitution 7pm
May 28, 2023	Induction of Rev. Lydia Bae @ Langley Presbyterian Church Constitution 2:45pm
June 20, 2023	In-person Presbytery meeting, @ Trinity Presbyterian Church (Gordon site) Dinner 6pm Constitution 7pm



Martin Baxter (clerk)

The Presbytery of Westminster
Special Meeting via Zoom
April 13, 2023

July 30, 2023

Induction of Rev. Curtis Bablitz
@ Richmond Presbyterian Church
Constitution 6:45pm
please note the time!

Notice of upcoming Workshops by the Ethics & Care Committee

The Ethics and Care committee are planning to hold “Leading with Care” training workshops, via ZOOM on the following dates :-

1. **April 18 at 7 pm**
2. **June 13 at 7 pm**
3. **September 19 at 7 pm**
4. **November 21 at 7 pm**

Please note :-

The Presbytery Clerk will be attending the Clerks Consultation, in Mississauga, ON, from Friday, April 14 – Monday, April 17, 2023. I will be available by email, for any matters of concern.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Baxter
Presbytery Clerk

NEW WITNESSING COMMUNITIES GRANT APPLICATION

At this time Rev. Lip Boon Lee was invited to present an application for a New Witnessing Communities grant, for “Church on the Road.”

Presbytery were invited to ask questions following the presentation.

Rev. Dr. Dale Woods then opened a JamBoard for online comments to be posted in regard to three questions.

- What, if anything, did you find exciting about this initiative
- What concerns, if any, do you have about this new initiative
- Do you think this is a wise use of presbytery’s resources



Martin Baxter (clerk)

The Presbytery of Westminster
Special Meeting via Zoom
April 13, 2023

These comments / responses would be sent to the review committee, (being coordinated by Pat Dutcher-Walls) that are being tasked to make a recommendation to presbytery about this grant application, at our June 2023 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

the Moderator called for adjournment at 8:37pm.

CARRIED


Time and Place:

- the next scheduled “special” meeting of presbytery is April 22nd 2023, 9am-3pm, at St. Andrew’s & St. Stephen’s, North Vancouver.
- The next regular scheduled meeting of presbytery is May 2nd, 2023, @ **CALVIN** Presbyterian Church. 6:00 pm dinner, 7:00pm constitution.

The Moderator offered a closing prayer.

The Moderator closed the court with a benediction at 8:40 pm.

Laurie McKay (Moderator of Presbytery)



Martin Baxter (clerk)